

Remarks

By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 11-13, 23-30, 40 and 42 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the specification and claims 8, 14-17, 31-34 41 and 43 are amended. After entry of this Amendment, claims 8-10, 14-22, 31-39, 41 and 43-45 will be present. Re-consideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 8, 17-22 34-39 and 43-45 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 6 and intervening claim 7. Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 11. Claim 34 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 28. Claim 43 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 40 and intervening claim 42.

In addition, claims 14-16 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 17. Claims 31-33 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 34. Claim 41 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 43.

Claims 1-7, 23-30, 40 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite prosecution and for economic reasons. Applicant reserves all right to pursue any of the cancelled claims or similar claims in a continuation application.

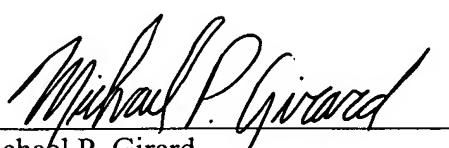
The specification has been amended to identify the patent number of one of the parent applications.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that remaining claims 8-10, 14-22, 31-39, 41 and 43-45 are directed to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition for allowance, the examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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